



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Man Charged in USC Grad Student Slayings Pleads Guilty

One of two men charged with fatally shooting two USC graduate students from China during a botched robbery in 2012 pleaded guilty today and was sentenced to two consecutive terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Bryan Barnes, 21, entered his plea to two counts of first-degree murder and admitted the special circumstances of multiple murders and murder during the commission of a robbery before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Stephen Marcus.

Barnes also admitted the special allegation that he personally discharged a firearm, killing Ming Qu and Ying Wu on April 11, 2012, during a robbery attempt. The two engineering students, both 23, were gunned down in the 2700 block of Raymond Avenue.

Deputy District Attorney Daniel Akemon with the Major Crimes Division, who is prosecuting the case, asked the court to dismiss an unrelated attempted murder charge against Barnes.

Judge Marcus sentenced Barnes to two life in prison without the possibility of parole terms plus two 25 years to life terms, which will be served consecutively with the LWOPs.

Prior to sentencing, the fathers of both victims addressed the court. Wanzhi Qu and Xiyong Wu, who arrived from China earlier this week, spoke of the great devastation and loss their families have suffered when their children were murdered "for no reason."

On March 21, the second defendant charged in the case, Javier Bolden, 21, returns to court in Department 102 for a pretrial conference. Prosecutors have not decided whether to seek the death penalty against Bolden. He is being held without bail.

The Los Angeles Police Department investigated the case.

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### About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.